

# VISION

The core promise embedded in the Comprehensive Plan is to maintain and enhance the health, safety and welfare of our community during times of change, and to promote our ideals and values as changes occur. The Comprehensive Plan is specific to Lincoln and Lancaster County and it recognizes the factors that make us unique. The Plan therefore is a combination of practicality and vision, and provides guidelines for sustaining the rich mosaic that now characterizes our community.

## THE ONE COMMUNITY VISION

Lincoln and Lancaster County have many different components that are bound together physically, economically, and culturally, all within a prairie ecosystem. The One Community Vision commits us to proactively, but cooperatively, acknowledge the sometimes competing interests and needs of neighborhoods, small towns, and rural areas, our growing cultural diversity, and regional economic forces, as we address the future. This is the fundamental challenge for our Comprehensive Plan: to retain the characteristics of our individual parts while accommodating change within an increasingly interdependent world. As a decision-making tool, the Plan must accomplish both these tasks.

## QUALITY OF LIFE ASSETS

Lincoln and Lancaster County's easily accessible museums, rich architecture, historic places, sustainable neighborhoods, diverse housing opportunities, libraries, performing and visual arts, agricultural landscapes, trails, entertainment and recreational opportunities, and schools, are truly major assets that enhance the quality of life for all residents. Neighborhoods are also one of Lincoln and Lancaster County's great strengths and their conservation is fundamental to this plan. In addition we are increasingly a diverse community. However, access to our quality of life assets is impossible without adequate physical and technological infrastructure. The Plan acknowledges this fact, and commits us to use access to quality of life assets as a decision-making criterion.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Lincoln and Lancaster County must have a sustainable tax base to provide quality services to residents. The Comprehensive Plan recognizes that technological change and global economic forces have a direct impact on local employment and quality of life. For this reason, the Plan seeks to improve technological infrastructure, to maintain a healthy climate for locally owned and operated commerce and trade, to promote the recruitment of new companies, and to provide a variety of training and employment opportunities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Clean air, clean water, parks and open space, mature trees, signature habitats, and prime and productive farmlands are valuable assets. Conservation areas, floodplains, green spaces, and parks define, and help to create linkages between, neighborhoods and surrounding population centers. The Comprehensive Plan takes into consideration the effects of natural phenomena not only upon localized development, but also upon the community as a whole, upon private ownership issues, and upon recreational opportunities. The Plan thus commits Lincoln and Lancaster County to preserve unique and sensitive habitats and endorses creative integration of natural systems into developments.

## DOWNTOWN LINCOLN—THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Downtown Lincoln belongs to all residents of Nebraska because “downtown” is synonymous with the University of Nebraska, state government, and the State Capitol building. This state-wide ownership has strong economic implications, and for that reason, as well as the desire to maintain downtown as the “heartbeat” of the community, the Comprehensive Plan will ensure that downtown remains a special place. The plan will seek to preserve vistas and institutions of cultural importance, to reinforce the district as a center of entertainment, and to promote a rich diversity of activities and uses, including housing, education, government, offices and commerce.

## INTERACTION BETWEEN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THE CITIZENS

Although the Comprehensive Plan is intended primarily to guide the physical development of our community, the results of such development are ultimately felt by individuals and their families. The planning process aspires to make this interaction between people and their physical landscape one in which all facets of our community can prosper, not only economically, but also intellectually, aesthetically, and spiritually. The Comprehensive Plan seeks to accommodate and encourage the participation of all citizens of the city and county in the making of public policies to implement the visions of the community. Comprehensive planning is a continuous process, requiring a continuing, equitable, and frequent interaction between the governments and their constituencies.